

THE NATIONAL ERA: WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 9, 1858.

presenting her his license, saying, "Here's the paper; I've no further use for them"; "It's said Mr. G. remained during the evening, and accompanied them next day, much to the mortification of Mr. M."

Mitchellville, Nov. 1858.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1858.

JASPER.

In due course to New Subscribers.

Owing to the unusual interest manifested by our readers in the story now in course of publication in the *Era*, entitled "I'm a Slave," we have decided, in order that all new subscribers may have the benefit of the story, to issue an "Extra" on the 1st of December, containing all the chapters published up to that time.

This Extra will be sent free to all new subscribers.

Editor: The publication of our "Extra" is unavoidably delayed for a few days. As soon as printed, a copy will be sent to each of our new subscribers.

Editor: For one or two weeks, our columns will be rather occupied with documents, but they are necessary to education.

The President's Message is long, and not at all interesting, but everybody should read it. He misrepresents the history of Kansas, bullies Spain, to be invested by Congress with power to annex California, and take possession of Mexico for the uses of our Southern brethren, and comes out for a revision of the Tariff, the adoption of specific duties, and incidental protection.

Editor: Books notices are crowded out this week.

Editor: Look out for your bills. Don't let them slip away, unnoticed. If an agent do not call upon you to renew yourself.

NOTEWORTHY.

Referring to the proceedings in Congress, it will be observed that, on the resolution in regard to the old Pro-Slavery Amistad affair, Messrs. Shields and Stark take their stand squarely with the Slave Democracy, while Mr. Broderick records his name with the Republicans.

RETROGRADE.

It is to be regretted that the head of the Post Office Department should generally have so little sympathy with the People. The Department is overburdened with fraud and malice, and the enlightened Secretary thinks it all important to meet the additional expenditure by taxing the People's mail.

What is the result? We are taxed three cents a stroke, and the Postmaster General, who has been a friend to the people, has been compelled to resign, and to go into the service of the Post Office Department.

What has occurred to the people of the fully of the White Province, and where is the evidence of it? What the broken-down negroes who have come to us have cast aside by an ingrain and betrayed people, the self-sacrificing missionaries? And do the recent elections, or those of 1856, furnish the evidence of the fifteen years missionary labors?

THE MESSAGE.

The Senate met and adjourned at an early hour, after some unimportant business, to Thursday.

The House of Representatives took up the unfinished business of the last session. Nothing of interest transpired, and, at two o'clock, the House adjourned to Thursday.

THE NEXT PRESIDENCY.—HON. JOHN J. CORTENDEN.—The members of the New York Whig General Committee and of the Assemblies Association waited upon Senator Crittenden, of Kentucky, at the St. Nicholas Hotel, to tender him their respects. Addresses were made in behalf of the Whigs by Mr. Jennings, and by Mr. Dodge on the part of the Assemblies. The sentiments of the speakers in regard to the principles and the memory of Henry Clay, to whose lofty patriotism and disinterestedness he bore an eloquent testimony, and it was with regret that Mr. Crittenden, who had been disappointed, and had seen his Whig party fail, could not be present to give his hearty endorsement of the principles of the Whigs.

The President opens with a review of his unfortunate, not to say disgraceful, Kansas policy; and reiterates the stale misrepresentations by which his predecessor and himself have heretofore vainly essayed to whitewash usurpation and crime. We have no room this week for comment.

The President narrates the chief events of the Utah campaign; congratulates the country upon the success of its negotiations with China and Japan; and announces the satisfactory solution of the difficulty with England in regard to the right of search. Differences arising under the Clayton and Bulwer treaty still remain to be settled, but particulars are withheld while the negotiation is pending.

The President presents a fearful army of complaints against Spain, and one might have supposed that we were the most aggrieved people on earth, until the conclusion is arrived at that the sum total is \$128,635,541. The President finds no remedy for our griefs but in the annexation of Cuba to the United States. Our virtuous Chief Magistrate is also deeply concerned about the wicked slave trade which Cuba carries on with the coast of Africa, and this is another reason for annexation or purchase. He therefore modestly calls upon Congress, not for the hundreds of millions which the island will cost, but for a *douceur* to be given to the Spanish Government in advance of the ratification of the treaty. In other words, for a portion paid with which to bribe the Spanish officials, and propitiate them.

The President takes up the American case, and again recommends an amicable purchase to pay the piratical Spaniards for their slaves—clear proof of his abhorrence of the slave trade. But in this instance his principal argument for the recognition of piracy is, that it will conciliate the Spanish officials, and propitiate them to sell Cuba!

The President is greatly shocked at thearchy which reigns in Mexico, and our Spanish government unhesitatingly recommends annexation, as the only remedy for the "sick man." He coolly proposes to take possession of Chihuahua and Sonora, and calls upon Congress for the means of occupying them by a military force! The

President attempts to justify this tyrannical proceeding, on the flimsy ground that the savage inhabitants of those Mexican provinces may obstruct the passage of the mails over the recently-established overland route to the Pacific.

As Asiatic or European conqueror ever invaded a country with a weak neighbor on a pre-text more false, insufficient, and contemptible. But our limits will not permit us to comment further at present.

In the same spirit of lawless aggression, the President calls upon Congress for authority to invade New Granada, Nicaragua, and Mexico, whenever he may decide that protection to the transit routes requires it.

The President presents a gloomy picture of the national finances. When he came into office, the Treasury was overflowing. Some forty millions were on hand, and the Government was embarrassed with the surplus. But at the end of eighteen months the case is quite different. The forty-million surplus is gone, and other forty millions in Treasury notes and loans are nearly gone. In a word, the Government owes \$64,000,000, and the debt is accumulating by millions annually. This strain,

he abandons the free trade ad valorem policy of the Democracy, and recommends an increase of duties on the "specific" or old Whig protectionist plan. The President thinks specifically applicable to the articles of "iron, raw sugar, and foreign wines and spirits." In other words, to the products of Pennsylvania and Louisiana. Not a word for the manufacturers of New England.

The President presents his recommendation of a Pacific Railroad, and while he admits, finally specifying any particular route, he borrows all its facts and illustrations from the extreme Southern line of Arizona and Texas. These are the salient points of the Message.

Other topics we must omit a reference to for the present. It will be seen that the leading purpose of the Message is to keep alive and animate the "agitation of the Slavery question."

The *Southern Citizen*, edited by Mitchell and Swau, has made its appearance. It is devoted to "the traffic in human flesh."

Mr. Letcher was nominated on Saturday last, at Petersburg, for Governor of Virginia.

NORTH AND SOUTH.

The Washington Union of the 1st of December contains the following official tribute to the incoming President:

"A great many circumstances conspire to give unusual animation and interest to political nominations in Virginia. In the first place, almost every citizen of Virginia is a thoroughly-informed politician. Nearly every citizen is well educated, and is well informed; but few can be found who do not subscribe to a newspaper, and make politics the staple of thought, study, and conversation."

We will not stop to recite this statement with the disclosures of the Census, returns, or the reports of Bible and Tract Societies. According to the former, there were 37,285 native-born clear-white immigrants in Virginia in 1850, in white population of 894,500, or one in 23. At the same time, there were in New England, New York, Michigan, and Wisconsin, only 45,390 native-born illegitimate, or 1 in 200 of 6,455,247; the proportion being 1 to 14.1. We might show a similar disparity in the circulation of the newspapers of the two sections. But let that pass; our present object is merely to lay before our readers the relative standing of Virginia and the North, as weighed in the official scales of the Washington Union. The Union is said to be edited by a Northern man with Southern principles," and he can doubtless recite the facts we have given from the Census with his assertion that nearly every voter in Virginia is a man of independent circumstances, well versed in the politics of the country, and takes a newspaper!

Mr. Colclough announced that he had paired off with Mr. Slidell on the above question.

Afterwards, the annual message of the President was agreed to, as follows:

"—Messrs. Bates, Bigler, Bright, Brown, Clay, Clingman, Davis, Fitch, Fitzpatrick, Green, Gwin, Hammond, Iverson, Jones, Kennedy, Ladd, Pennington, Head, Rice, Shields, Smith, Thompson, and Wilson.

"—Navy—Mearns, Broderick, Canfield, Clark, Dixon, Dolittle, Durkee, Fessenden, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, King, Sawyer, Simmonson, Trumbull, Wade, and Wilson."

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Afterwards, the annual message of the President was received, and read by the Clerk.

Mr. Hale remarked that it had been customary on some occasions for gentlemen to express their sentiments on the subject of the Civil War, and he thought it would be well to have such a speech in the House.

Mr. Hale then took occasion to comment upon several portions of the message with considerable freedom, especially in referring to the affairs of Kansas.

Mr. Colclough announced that he had paired off with Mr. Slidell on the above question.

The question was taken on printing the regular number of the message and accompanying documents, and it was agreed to.

The motion to print the message was laid on the table of the Clerk at 12 o'clock M.

The *Tariff*.—The Speaker called the States for resolutions and bills.

The City authorities are about to ask of Congress an appropriation to repair the City Corporation of New Orleans to the taxes upon estates of which the city has been assessed so high as to tax the poor.

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sum would be repaid with interest, we have received a proposal offering to refund one-third of that amount; four thousand two hundred and seventy-eight dollars, against Mexico, but with which, it would cover this in full satisfaction. The offer is also accompanied by a declaration that this indemnification is not founded on any article of strict justice, but is made on a special favor.

An all-day pause for procrastination in the examination and adjustment of our claims arises from an obstacle which it is the duty of the Spanish Government to remove.

The General of Cuba is invested with general despotic authority in the Government of that island, the power is withheld from him to examine and redress wrongs committed by other nations, and to provide for the common use of all nations, and their only function is to satisfy these demands.

Our late Minister was furnished with ample complaint and evidence for the examination of all pending questions with the Central Government of Mexico, and he performed his duty with zeal and ability. The claims of our citizens, some of them arising out of the violation of the rights of neutrals, and others from injuries to persons as well as property, have remained undressed and even unnoticed. Remonstrances against these grievances have been made to that effect to the Government of Spain in various parts of the Republic, instances have been numerous of the murder, imprisonment, and plunder, of our citizens, by different parties claiming and exercising a local jurisdiction; and the Spanish Government has, at no time, urged or urged, have made no effort either to punish the authors of these outrages or to prevent their recurrence. No American citizen can now visit Mexico without being exposed to danger in his person and property. There is no adequate protection to either; and in this respect our treaty with the Spanish Government is a dead letter.

This same affair was brought to a crisis in May, by the application of a decree laws,

by the Spanish Government, for the payment of a different portion from the Powers of Europe. Cuba is almost within sight of our shores; our country is in it far greater danger than any other nation; and our friends and our citizens are in habits of daily and extended personal intercourse with every part of the island. It is therefore a great grievance that, when any damage occurs to us, we are compelled to wait which party will be held responsible at the moment when we should be obliged to resort to Madrid, especially when the very first step is to be taken there to get back to Calais.

The truth is, in its existing colonial condition, is a constant source of injury and annoyance to the American people. It is the only spot in the civilized world where the African slave is born and bred; and it is in naval force on the coast of Africa, at much expense both of life and treasure, solely for the purpose of arresting slaves bound to that island.

This Government did not regard the contribution imposed by the decree of the 15th May last as being a sine qua non of the payment of the tribute required by the 10th article of the treaty of 1826, between Great Britain and Mexico, to the benefit of which American citizens are entitled by law; yet, upon imposition of such a contribution, he waited until the pleasure of his Government should be ascertained.

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It is to be regretted to find, by my predecessors, that the United States had no hope for the recovery of slaves from Cuba by Spanish honorable negotiation. If this was so, it would naturally disappear. We should not, if we could, accept such a result in either manner. This is due to our national character.

All the territory which we have acquired since the origin of the Government has been won by the sword, and therefore deemed proper to sanction his withdrawal of the legation from the city of Mexico.

Absent from his post, he could never have arisen if Cuba had not afforded a market for slaves. As long as this market shall remain, we have no hope for the recovery of slaves from Spanish honorable negotiation.

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be vain for this Government to attempt to enforce payment in money of the claims of American citizens, amounting to more than forty-two thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight dollars, against Mexico, because she is destitute of all pecuniary means to satisfy these demands.

Our late Minister was furnished with ample complaint and evidence for the examination of all pending questions with the Central Government of Mexico, and he performed his duty with zeal and ability. The claims of our citizens, some of them arising out of the violation of the rights of neutrals, and others from injuries to persons as well as property, have remained undressed and even unnoticed. Remonstrances against these grievances have been made to that effect to the Government of Spain in various parts of the Republic, instances have been numerous of the murder, imprisonment, and plunder, of our citizens, by different parties claiming and exercising a local jurisdiction; and the route must not be safe to travel the controversy. This is our whole policy, and it cannot fail to be acceptable to other nations.

All these difficulties might be avoided,

if the Captain General were invested

with authority to settle questions of easy solution at spot, where all the facts are fresh, and could be easily ascertained.

We have hitherto vainly urged upon the Spanish Government to confer this power upon the Captain General, and our Minister to Spain will continue to do so, in order that they may be able to bring about a friendly arrangement.

In this respect, we occupy a different position from the Powers of Europe. Cuba is almost within sight of our shores; our country is in it far greater danger than any other nation; and our friends and our citizens are in habits of daily and extended personal intercourse with every part of the island.

It is therefore a great grievance that, when any damage occurs to us, we are compelled to wait which party will be held responsible at the moment when we should be obliged to resort to Madrid, especially when the very first step is to be taken there to get back to Calais.

The truth is, in its existing colonial condition, is a constant source of injury and annoyance to the American people. It is the only spot in the civilized world where the African slave is born and bred; and it is in naval force on the coast of Africa, at much expense both of life and treasure, solely for the purpose of arresting slaves bound to that island.

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The commerce of other nations is not to stand still and await the adjustment of such petty controversies. The Government of the United States expects no more than this, and it will not be satisfied with less. They would do well, if they could, derive any advantage from the Nicaragua transit, not common to the rest of the world, and peculiar to the route for the common use of all nations, and their only object.

They have no objection that Nicaragua should demand and receive a fair compensation from the companies and individuals who may traverse the isthmus, and those who may travel over the Isthmus and others from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and he performed his duty with zeal and ability. The claims of our citizens, some of them arising out of the violation of the rights of neutrals, and others from injuries to persons as well as property, have remained undressed and even unnoticed. Remonstrances against these grievances have been made to that effect to the Government of Spain in various parts of the Republic, instances have been numerous of the murder, imprisonment, and plunder, of our citizens, by different parties claiming and exercising a local jurisdiction; and the route must not be safe to travel the controversy. This is our whole policy, and it cannot fail to be acceptable to other nations.

All these difficulties might be avoided, if the Captain General were invested with authority to settle questions of easy solution at spot, where all the facts are fresh, and could be easily ascertained.

We have hitherto vainly urged upon the Spanish Government to confer this power upon the Captain General, and our Minister to Spain will continue to do so, in order that they may be able to bring about a friendly arrangement.

In this respect, we occupy a different position from the Powers of Europe. Cuba is almost within sight of our shores; our country is in it far greater danger than any other nation; and our friends and our citizens are in habits of daily and extended personal intercourse with every part of the island.

It is therefore a great grievance that, when any damage occurs to us, we are compelled to wait which party will be held responsible at the moment when we should be obliged to resort to Madrid, especially when the very first step is to be taken there to get back to Calais.

The truth is, in its existing colonial condition, is a constant source of injury and annoyance to the American people. It is the only spot in the civilized world where the African slave is born and bred; and it is in naval force on the coast of Africa, at much expense both of life and treasure, solely for the purpose of arresting slaves bound to that island.

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Questions have arisen between the two Governments as to the right of Nicaragua to demand a tollage duty upon the vessels of the United States, in its ports of the isthmus, and to exact such a toll as to interfere with the navigation of the Nicaragua transit, not common to the rest of the world, and peculiar to the route for the common use of all nations, and their only object.

They have no objection that Nicaragua should demand and receive a fair compensation from the companies and individuals who may traverse the isthmus, and those who may travel over the Isthmus and others from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and be ratified by the Government of the United States.

These taxes as an act of violation of the treaty of 1826, and as an infringement of the rights of neutrals, and others from whom they may have come, would be an arbitrary exercise of power.

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our credit must be our chief resource, at least for the first year, and it would be greatly improved by having contracted a large debt in time.

Comparisons between the annual expenditure of the United States and that of other countries, as well as the rapid increase of our revenue, show that we are rapidly approaching a state of extreme poverty, and that we are in imminent danger of bankruptcy.

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a poor Jewish child from his parents, you could not defend yourselves against your own Christian people."—*London News*, 11th ult.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD.—We learn that ten colored persons, from Kentucky, reached this city on Monday morning, via the Lake Shore road, from some in Pennsylvania, who were sent across

